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News Release

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Man rescued from dangerous surf off Lumaha'i; High surf continues on Kauai's North Shore

LUMAHA'I – Lifeguards rescued a Kauai man from waters off Lumaha'i Beach Wednesday afternoon, during very high surf and dangerous ocean conditions.

The 29-year-old Hanalei man was standing with a group of friends at the water's edge, when a large wave swept onto shore and pulled him in. The strong current dragged the man beyond the breaking waves, which were reported to be up to 30 feet on the North Shore.

Lifeguards from the Hanalei Pavilion tower responded to the scene on Jet Ski and located the man roughly 300 yards off shore. The waves at Lumaha'i Beach were too large to bring him in so he was brought to Black Pot Beach at Hanalei, where he was met by firefighters.

The man was in good condition and refused medical treatment.

"In this case, the distressed swimmer did not attempt to fight the current and swim back to shore," reported Ocean Safety Supervisor Kalani Vierra. "He stayed calm and waited for help to arrive, which likely helped to save his life."

As dangerous surf continues on the North Shore, lifeguards are urging beachgoers to stay out of the water and away from the shoreline.

"A 20 to 30-foot wave will sweep up onto shore and easily knock onlookers off their feet," added Vierra. "Being swept out to sea in those conditions can be deadly and we are very grateful to our lifeguards, who have been working incredibly hard during this continued high surf event to prevent tragedies."

Beachgoers should obey all posted warning signs and when in doubt, don't go out!

As a reminder, officials are advising no swimming at all North Shore beaches, including Anini Beach. Hanalei Bay is also closed until further notice due to a shark bite. Lifeguards will reassess ocean conditions tomorrow morning and updates will be given as information becomes available.

For up-to-date information about ocean conditions, please speak to a county lifeguard, log onto www.kauaiexplorer.com, or call the Ocean Safety Bureau at 241-4984.

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